GENTIANELLA CANOSOI (GENTIANACEAE), A NEW SPECIES FROM DURANGO, MEXICO

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ABSTRACT

A new species, Gentianella canosoi, is described and illustrated from Durango, Mexico, where it is known from several collections.

KEY WORDS: Gentianella, Gentianaceae, Mexico.

The North American species of *Gentianella* were revised in a relatively recent treatment by Gillett (1957), but study of collections made since that time has shown there to be species not recognized in Gillett's study. A taxonomic synopsis of the whole genus in Mexico, which includes several other new species and a discussion of relationships, is being published nearly concurrently with the present study (Nesom, in prep.). The description of this species is presented separately to emphasize its distinctness and to honor Michael Canoso, Collections Manager of the Harvard University Herbaria. Mike has served with distinction for 39 years, and there could be but very few members of the taxonomic community who have not experienced his always friendly and competent assistance or at least seen evidence, through his signature, of his activities.

GENTIANELLA CANOSOI Nesom & Turner, sp. nov. Fig. 1.

A speciebus Mexicis ceteris pedicellis ac tubis calycum dense prominenterque papillatiscabris bene distincta.

Taprooted annuals. Stems strictly erect, single from the base, 13-45 cm tall, often purple, young portions densely papillate-scabrous, smooth below or remaining slightly scabrous along the ridges. Leaves opposite, subclasping, not basally connate, spreading, 3-nerved, lanceolate, 15-35 mm long, 3-6 mm wide proximally, glabrous except for the minutely papillate-scabrous margins. Flowers mostly 3-5 in compact cymes, on pedicels 1-4 mm long, terminal on the primary stem and axillary branches arising mostly on the upper 2/3 of the stem; calyx prominently papillate-scabrous on the veins and lamina, most densely so on the veins, the tube 2.0-2.5 mm long, the 5 lobes linear-lanceolate, 3-4 mm long,

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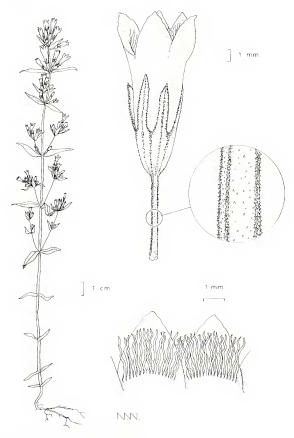


FIG. 1. Habit and details of Gentianella canosoi.

equal in length or nearly so, spreading at the apices; corollas yellowish-gold, drying yellow to purple, funnelform, the tube 8 = 10 mm long, with a ring of filaments inserted just below the mouth, the 5 lobes spreading-erect, 5 = 6 mm long, with attenuate apices; stamens epipetalous, the filaments narrowly winged basally, adnate to the tube for about half the tube length, the thecae 1 mm long, borne near the top of the tube. Ovaries 1-celled, with 2 persistent stigmas; mature fruits not observed.

South-central Durango; pine-oak woodlands, rich soil; ca. 2400-2650 m; Sep-Nov.

Type: MEXICO. Durango. Mpio. Pueblo Nuevo, vicinity of El Salto, pine woods, 4 Oct 1981, S. González and S. Aceredo 2053 (Holotype: TEX!; Isotype: GH!).

Additional specimens examined: MEXICO. Durango. Mpio. Pueblo Nuevo: 6 mi W of La Ciudad on Hwy 40, at Puerto de Buenos Aires, 7 Nov 1964, Flyr 276 (TEX); 5 km SW of El Salto, 4 Oct 1981, González and Aceredo 2033 (TEX); along Hwy 40 at the turnoff to La Campana, 3.2 mi W of Las Adjuntas and 14.7 mi W of El Salto, 26 Sep 1973, Reveal 3458 (TEX, US).

Gentianella canosoi apparently is localized in the high-altitude pine wood-lands in the area of El Salto, and all collections examined are convincingly consistent in their distinctive features. The new species differs from all other species of the genus in Mexico, and North America as well, in its upper stems, pedicels, and calyx tubes densely and prominently papillate-scabrous. With its fimbriate corolla tube, it is a member of series Amarellae (of Gentianella sect. Amarella, sensu Gillett 1957) and it appears to be most similar to Gentianella amarella subsp. acuta (Michx.) Gillett and another yet undescribed species from the Sierra Madre Occidental of Mexico (Nesom in prep.).

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REFERENCES

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